

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 FMC-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 COME-00 /025 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TCA/MA:SVSMITH:EW

APPROVED BY EB/TCA/MA:RKBANK

ARA/ECP:MDAVILA

ARA/NC:TWSONANDRES (PHONE)

FMC:WJSMITH

----- 122681

P R 202309Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EWWT, VE, US

SUBJECT: DELTA LINE/CAVN RELATIONS

REF: CARACAS 5183

1. CAPT. CLARK PHONED DEPARTMENT (EB/TCA/MA) MAY 19 REGARDING POSSIBLE TROUBLE HE SEES BREWING IN DELTA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CAVN. CLARK HAS BEEN NOTIFIED BY HIS AGENT IN CARACAS, LUIS RINCON, THAT CAREER LEVEL STAFF IN CAVN HAVE TAKEN VIOLENT EXCEPTION TO SOME OF DELTA'S RECENT PRACTICES AND PLAN TO TAKE THEIR COMPLAINTS TO VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT AT "MINISTERIAL" LEVEL, POSSIBLY FRIDAY, MAY 21. ACCORDING TO CLARK, DELTA HAS INCREASED THE NUMBER OF BARGES PER SHIP BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF DELTA SHIPS IN THE SERVICE HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 4 TO 3 AS A RESULT OF ONE BEING USED IN
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ANOTHER TRADE. ALSO, CLARK CLAIMS THAT DELTA HAS

BEEN CARRYING CERTAIN CARGOES WHICH CAVN HAD "NOT BEEN INTERESTED IN CARRYING." RINCON HAS INFORMED CLARK THAT CAVN STAFF PLANS TO USE THE ABOVE AS EXAMPLES OF DELTA'S VIOLATION OF ITS AGREEMENT WITH CAVN, AND WILL ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT TAKE RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST DELTA,

WHICH COULD INCLUDE A LARGE FINE LEVIED AGAINST THE IMPORTERS OF GOODS CARRIED BY DELTA IN "VIOLATION" OF THE AGREEMENT.

2. DEPARTMENT SUGGESTED THAT CLARK HAVE RINCON CONTACT EMBASSY TO PREPARE EMBASSY FOR POSSIBLE APPROACHES FROM VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER.

3. DEPARTMENT REALIZES THAT INFORMATION PROVIDED PARA. 1 BY CAPT. CLARK IS VERY MUCH HIS SIDE OF THE STORY. HOWEVER, WE WISH TO ALERT EMBASSY TO LIKELIHOOD THAT DELTA'S AGENT, RINCON, WILL CALL EMBASSY AND ALSO WARN EMBASSY OF POSSIBILITY IT MAY HEAR FROM GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IF APPROACHED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES EMBASSY SHOULD NOT EXPRESS ANY OPINION ON MERIT OF DELTA'S CASE, BUT SHOULD ENCOURAGE VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS TO HEAR DELTA'S SIDE OF THE CASE BEFORE FORMING CONCLUSIONS AND TO GIVE DELTA FAIR AND JUST TREATMENT IN RESOLVING ANY CAVN/DELTA DISAGREEMENTS. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, STEAMSHIP LINES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE124341
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SVSMITH:EW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760196-0780
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760531/aaaabakv.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CARACAS 5183
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DELTA LINE/CAVN RELATIONS
TAGS: EWWT, VE, US, DELTA LINE, CAVN
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006